

Message Text

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ACTION ORM-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6978

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6284

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, CVIS, SREF (UN)

SUBJ: REFUGEE STATUS

REF: STATE 249014

1. IN RESPONSE TO PARA 1, REFTEL, EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE GENERAL INFORMATION WHICH IS APPLICABLE IN MOST CASES OF PERSONS OF EASTERN EUROPEAN BACKGROUND WHO ARE SEEKING REFUGEE STATUS. NONE OF THEM HAS STATED OR CLAIMED THAT HE OR SHE HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO DIRECT GOC PERSECUTION FOR POLITICAL REASONS OR WOULD BE IF THEY SHOULD REMAIN CHILE. HOWEVER, ALL SUCH CASES HAVE BEEN PERSONALLY INTERVIEWED BY CONSOFFS AND THE MAJORITY OF SUCH APPLICANTS HAVE STATED THAT THEY FEAR OR HAVE EXPERIENCED A DIMUNITION OF THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY THEY HAVE ENJOYED THUS FAR BECAUSE OF THE GOC'S PRESENT EMPHASIS ON "CHILEANIZATION" OF ALL ASPECTS OF NATIONAL LIFE.

2. IN SEVERAL CASES, APPLICANTS HAVE CLAIMED THAT THEY HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO VERBAL AND OR/OR PHYSICAL HARASSMENT BY CHILEAN NEIGHBORS AND THAT THEIR HOUSES HAVE BEEN VANDALIZED BY NEIGHBORS BECAUSE THEY WERE FOREIGNERS. SOME OF THE APPLICANTS APPEAR TO FEAR THAT THEIR EMPLOYMENT IS ENDANGERED AS THEY BELIEVE THE PRESENT GOVT IS ENCOURAGING LOCAL BUSINESSES TO HIRE CHILEANS FIRST AND TO REPLACE FOREIGN-NATIONAL EMPLOYEES WITH CHILEANS.

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3. FACTORS CITED IN PARA 1 ARE REFLECTED IN PATASI AND KREISHOFER

CASES. IN ADDITION, IN THE CASE OF PRADO FAMILY, MRS. PRADO STATES SHE FEARS HARASSMENT AND POSSIBLE PERSECUTION BY REASON OF HER SOVIET CITIZENSHIP BECAUSE OF STRONG ANTI-COMMUNIST BIAS OF PRESENT GOVT. MR. PRADO HAS ALSO EXPRESSED SIMILAR FEARS BASED ON HIS SEVERAL YEARS ATTENDANCE AT A MOSCOW UNIVERSITY.

4. MANY REFUGEES ALSO UNDER IMPRESSION THAT ONCE THEY HAVE REQUESTED ASSISTANCE OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE, GOC WILL INSIST THAT THEY ACTUALLY LEAVE CHILE. THIS HAS BEEN DENIED TO EMBOFFS BY UNHCR REPS.

6. COMMENT. IN FIRST DAYS FOLLOWING SEPT 11 MILITARY COUP GREAT DEAL OF XENOPHOBIA WAS GENERATED BY NEW GOVT WITH ITS CONSTANT HARPING ON THEME OF "FOREIGN EXTREMISTS." MANY FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING AMCITS, WHO WERE DECIDEDLY NOT IN THE EXTREMIST CATEGORY WERE DENOUNCED TO GOC SECURITY FORCES AS DANGEROUS INDIVIDUALS OR OTHERWISE MOLESTED BY NEIGHBORS. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE GENERAL LEVEL OF ANTI-FOREIGN ACTIVITY AND SENTIMENT HAS SERIOUSLY DIMINISHED, BUT OF COURSE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT INDIVIDUAL FOREIGNERS MAY BE SUBJECT TO HARASSMENT BY NEIGHBORS OR CO-WORKERS. IN NONE OF THREE CASES UNDER STUDY (PATASI, PRADO, KREISHOFER) ARE ANY OF SUBJECTS WANTED BY GOC OR HAVE BEEN SERVED WITH EXPULSION ORDERS. OF THREE CASES WE WOULD ESTIMATE THAT MR. AND MRS. PRADO WILL MOST PROBABLY HAVE THE GREATEST DIFFICULTY IN REMAINING IN CHILE OWING MORE TO HIS MANY YEARS (1962-1971) OF RESIDENCE IN THE SOVIET UNION RATHER THAN HER RUSSIAN CITIZENSHIP.

7. PLEASE NOTE THAT AS STATED SANTIAGO 6176 POST RECOMMENDATIONS IN PRADO CASE MADE PRIOR TO COMPLETION EAGLE NAMECHECK PERIOD AND WE HAVE SOME INDICATION WASHINGTON FILES MIGHT CONTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING MR. PRADO. POST HAS IN PROCESSING STAGES NUMBER OF CASES RECENTLY RECEIVED OF OTHER APPLICANTS OF EASTERN EUROPEAN BACKGROUND WHO HAVE RESIDED IN CHILE FOR OVER 15 YEARS (AS HAVE PATASI AND KREISHOFER) AND WE, THEREFORE, APPRECIATE PRECEDENT SETTING NATURE OF CASES ALREADY SUBMITTED AND WELCOME DEPT'S CONTINUED INTEREST AND ANALYSIS.

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